

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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FOR OES, EUR/WE, AND CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: JOINT COMMITTEE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: MEETING
WITH SPANISH COCHAIRMAN

1. SUMMARY: MANUEL BARROSO, SPANISH COCHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION, MET JANUARY 20 WITH EMBOFFS TO EXCHANGE
VIEWS ON PROGRESS IN THE FIRST YEAR S & T PROGRAM AND ON
PLANS FOR THE SECOND YEAR. BARROSO IS GENERALLY SATISFIED
WITH PROGRESS TO DATE AND HOLDS OUT THE PROSPECT OF EARLY
SPANISH DECISIONS ON THEIR DESIRES FOR THE SECOND YEAR
PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST YEAR PROGRAM:

(A) BARROSO APPEARED TO BE REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE
PACE OF THE FIRST YEAR PROGRAM, BUT EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED VERY SOON ON
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES SO THAT FUNDS COULD BE
DISBURSED TO THE MANY PROJECTS ALREADY APPROVED. EMBOFFS
ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. SIDE WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT
TO COMPLETE WORK ON FUNDING PROCEDURES.

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(B) BARROSO RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE U.S. SIDE TO
REJECT PROJECT PROPOSALS. INTERNALLY, THE SPANISH SIDE
WOULD ATTEMPT TO HANDLE THIS BY ENCOURAGING THE
DISAPPOINTED MINISTRIES TO SUBMIT COMPENSATING PROJECTS
FOR THE SECOND YEAR PROGRAM. HE ASKED THE EMBASSY TO
HELP THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION
IN LETTERS OF DISAPPROVAL WHICH WOULD GIVE REASONS FOR

THE REJECTION WHICH THE PROPOSERS WOULD UNDERSTAND. HE SAID THAT THESE STATEMENTS WOULD ALSO SERVE AS GUIDES FOR THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMMITTEE IN SELECTING AMONG FUTURE PROPOSALS.

(C) EMBOFFS RAISED THE ABSENCE OF APPROVAL BY THE TWO SPANISH COCHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES 3 AND 4 OF AN INCREASE IN THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND OF BUDGETTING BY THE JOINT COMMITTEES FOR COMMUNICATIONS EXPENSES OF THE STAFF, AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF FAVORABLE CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR EQUIPMENT PROVIDED UNDER THE TREATY. BARROSO SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THESE.

3. SECOND YEAR PROGRAM:

(A) BARROSO REPORTED THAT THE SPANISH SIDE WAS WORKING INTENSIVELY AND WELL, AND HOPED TO HAVE MOST OF THE PROPOSALS READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE JOINT COMMITTEES IN MID-MARCH. A STUDY GROUP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE. EFFECTIVENESS IS EXPECTED SINCE THE STUDY GROUP IS MADE UP OF 7 OR 8 MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ITSELF AND IS CHAIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE NAVAL CAPTAIN MANUEL DE LA HERA (CHOSEN ACCORDING TO BARROSO AS THE MOST NEUTRAL OF THE MEMBERS).

(B) EMBOFFS ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESEARCH OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT. BARROSO DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HELD WITH FEDERICO MAYOR ZARAGOZA, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN A STRICTLY ADVISORY ROLE FOR THE COMMISSION, ON INVITATION ONLY.

(C) BARROSO CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE SPANISH SIDE HAD DECIDED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO MAKE A PUBLIC CALL IN SPAIN FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF COOPERATION UNDER THE TREATY, SINCE MOST FY78 FUNDS ARE COMMITTED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE CONTINUATION OF FIRST YEAR PROJECTS.

(D) BARROSO AGREED THAT THE 85 PERCENT ALLOCATION TARGET FOR THE FIRST YEAR FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE SECOND YEAR AS WELL, BUT THE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS ASSUMES ALSO THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE 10 PERCENT FLEXIBILITY IN THIS TARGET AGREED TO BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE LAST YEAR.

(E) EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THE DESIRABILITY OF INVOLVING A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT AN APPROPRIATE STAGE OF THE SPANISH PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS, IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE SPANISH SIDE BY IDENTIFYING PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT PROVE TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. SIDE. BARROSO AGREED

THAT THIS U.S. HELP WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE SPANISH SIDE
AND WOULD MINIMIZE THE RISK OF U.S. VETOS AFTER THE FORMAL
PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. SIDE.
BORDERLINE CASES COULD BE REFERRED IMMEDIATELY TO U.S.
TECHNICAL AGENCIES FOR INFORMAL COMMENT.

(F) RE THE SUBJECT OF WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO OFFER TRAVEL
AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH GRANTS, BARROSO REPORTED THAT
THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE WOULD ONLY ABSORB THIS PART OF THE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR S&T
TRANSFERRED THE REQUIRED FUNDS. BARROSO SAID THE SPANISH
SIDE OF THE S&T COMMITTEE WAS UNWILLING TO TRANSFER
FUNDS TO THE OTHER COMMITTEE AND THEREFORE PREFERRED TO
INCORPORATE ALMOST ALL TRAVEL AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH
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IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS. THERE WOULD NO LONGER
BE SEPARATE CATEGORIES FOR THEM, EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR A
FEW MERITORIOUS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS WHICH
COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH
PROPOSALS.

4. THE MEETING ENDED WITH BARROSO'S STATING THAT HE WAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING OF THE JOINT
COMMITTEE, WHICH THE PLENARY OF OCTOBER 1977 HAD AGREED
SHOULD BE HELD THIS MAY. STABLER

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